

nursing and in the pipeline for nursing programs;

(B) an increasing number of graduating nurses and improved nurse graduation and licensure rates;

(C) improved nurse retention;

(D) an increase in the number of staff nurses at the healthcare facility involved;

(E) an increase in the number of nurses with advanced degrees in nursing;

(F) an increase in the number of nurse faculty;

(G) improved measures of patient quality (which may include staffing ratios of nurses, patient satisfaction rates, patient safety measures); and

(H) an increase in the diversity of new nurse graduates relative to the patient population.

(2) GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Labor shall, using data and information from the reports received under paragraph (1), submit to Congress a report concerning the overall effectiveness of the grant program carried out under this section.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, such sums as may be necessary.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 319—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DURBIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 319

Whereas the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-433) revoked prohibitions on the consolidation of military transportation functions, and President Reagan subsequently ordered the establishment of a unified transportation command within the Armed Forces;

Whereas October 1, 2007, marks the 20th year anniversary of the activation of the United States Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois;

Whereas the United States Transportation Command consists of—

(1) the United States Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois;

(2) the Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois;

(3) the Military Sealift Command in Washington, District of Columbia; and

(4) the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois;

Whereas Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm provided a wartime test for the United States Transportation Command, resulting in a command that is fully operational in both peacetime and wartime;

Whereas the United States Transportation Command has continued to prove its worth during United States contingency operations, such as Operation Desert Thunder (enforcing United Nations resolutions in Iraq) and Operation Allied Force (North Atlantic Treaty Organization operations against Serbia), and United States peacekeeping endeavors, such as Operation Restore Hope (in Somalia), Operation Support Hope (in Rwanda), Operation Uphold Democ-

racy (in Haiti), Operation Joint Endeavor (in Bosnia-Herzegovina), and Operation Joint Guardian (in Kosovo);

Whereas the United States Transportation Command has also supported numerous humanitarian relief operations transporting relief supplies to victims of natural disasters at home and abroad;

Whereas the United States Transportation Command is a vital element in the war against terrorism, supporting the Armed Forces around the world;

Whereas since October 2001, the United States Transportation Command, and its components and national partners, have transported nearly 4,000,000 passengers, 9,000,000 short tons of cargo, and more than 4,000,000,000 gallons of fuel in support of the war on terrorism;

Whereas in 2003 the Secretary of Defense designated the Commander of the United States Transportation Command as Distribution Process Owner to serve as the single Department of Defense entity to “improve the overall efficiency and interoperability of distribution related activities—deployment, sustainment and redeployment support during peace and war”;

Whereas the Quadrennial Defense Review of 2005 recognized the importance of joint mobility and the critical role that it plays in global power projection; cited the successful investment in cargo transportability, strategic lift, and pre-positioned stock; and called for continued recapitalization and modernization of the airlift and aerial tanker fleet; and

Whereas the assigned responsibilities of the United States Transportation Command include—

(1) providing common-user and commercial transportation, terminal management, and aerial refueling;

(2) providing global patient movement for the Department of Defense through the Defense Transportation System;

(3) serving as the Mobility Joint Force Provider; and

(4) serving as Distribution Process Owner for the Department of Defense: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the sacrifice and commitment of the 155,000 members of the Armed Forces (including the National Guard and Reserve) and civilian employees and contractors that comprise the United States Transportation Command and recognizes the debt of gratitude of the American people;

(2) honors the families of United States Transportation Command members and recognizes their sacrifices while their loved ones are deployed around the world; and

(3) recognizes the success of United States Transportation Command over the last 20 years and its continuing vital contributions to the war against terrorism.

SENATE RESOLUTION 320—RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE IN PURSUIT OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, AND EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2007, PRESERVE AND EXTEND THESE GAINS AND PROVIDE FOR A STABLE AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 320

Whereas the people of Ukraine have overcome financial and political hardships to achieve a democratic system in which decisions have been reached without violence and through free and fair elections;

Whereas Ukraine has already conducted elections considered free, fair, and consistent with the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on 2 previous occasions;

Whereas the people of Ukraine deserve an elected and representative government that can work together and pass legislation to improve the quality of life for all Ukrainians; and

Whereas the people of Ukraine have successfully established a growing free press, an increasingly independent judiciary, and a respect for human rights and the rule of law, which enhance freedom, stability, and prosperity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the cooperation and friendship between the people of the United States and the people of Ukraine since the restoration of Ukraine's independence in 1991 and the natural affections of the millions of Americans whose ancestors emigrated from Ukraine;

(2) expresses the admiration of the American people for the ongoing success of the Ukrainian people at removing violence from politics, for which Ukrainians should be proud, in particular the free and fair presidential elections of December 26, 2004, and the parliamentary elections of March 26, 2006;

(3) encourages the people of Ukraine to maintain the democratic successes of the Orange Revolution of 2004, and expresses the hope that the leaders of Ukraine will conduct the September 30, 2007, elections in keeping with the standards of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), of which both the United States and Ukraine are participating states;

(4) urges the leaders and parties of Ukraine to overcome past differences and work together constructively to enhance the economic and political stability of the country that the people of Ukraine deserve; and

(5) pledges the continued assistance of the United States to the continued progress and further development of a free and representative democratic government in Ukraine based on the rule of law and the principle of human rights.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 47—RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AS AN INDEPENDENT MILITARY SERVICE

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 47

Whereas President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947 on July 26, 1947, to realign and reorganize the Armed Forces and to create a separate Department of the Air Force from the existing military services;

Whereas the National Security Act of 1947 was enacted on September 18, 1947;

Whereas the Aeronautical Division of the United States Army Signal Corps, consisting of one officer and two enlisted men, began operation under the command of Captain Charles DeForest Chandler on August 1, 1907, with the responsibility for "all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects";

Whereas in 1908, the Department of War contracted with the Wright brothers to build one heavier-than-air flying machine for the United States Army, and accepted the Wright Military Flyer, the world's first military airplane, in 1909;

Whereas United States pilots, flying with both allied air forces and with the Army Air Service, performed admirably in the course of World War I, participating in pursuit, observation, and day and night bombing missions;

Whereas pioneering aviators of the United States, including Mason M. Patrick, William "Billy" Mitchell, Benjamin D. Foulois, Frank M. Andrews, Henry "Hap" Arnold, James "Jimmy" H. Doolittle, and Edward "Eddie" Rickenbacker, were among the first to recognize the military potential of air power and courageously forged the foundations for the creation of an independent arm for air forces in the United States in the decades following World War I;

Whereas on June 20, 1941, the Department of War created the Army Air Forces (AAF) as its aviation element and shortly thereafter the Department of War made the AAF co-equal to the Army Ground Forces;

Whereas General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold drew upon the industrial prowess and human resources of the United States to transform the Army Air Corps from a force of 22,400 men and 2,402 aircraft in 1939 to a peak wartime strength of 2.4 million personnel and 79,908 aircraft;

Whereas the standard for courage, flexibility, and intrepidity in combat was established for all Airmen during the first aerial raid in the Pacific Theater on April 18, 1942, when Lieutenant Colonel James "Jimmy" H. Doolittle led 16 North American B-25 Mitchell bombers in a joint operation from the deck of the naval carrier USS Hornet to strike the Japanese mainland in response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor;

Whereas President Harry S. Truman supported organizing air power as an equal arm of the military forces of the United States, writing on December 19, 1945, that air power had developed so that the responsibilities and contributions to military strategic planning of air power equaled those of land and sea power;

Whereas on September 18, 1947, W. Stuart Symington became the first Secretary of the newly formed and independent United States Air Force (USAF), and on September 26, 1947, General Carl A. Spaatz became the first Chief of Staff of the USAF;

Whereas the Air National Guard was also created by the National Security Act of 1947 and has played a vital role in guarding the United States and defending freedom in nearly every major conflict and contingency since its inception;

Whereas on October 14, 1947, the USAF demonstrated its historic and ongoing commitment to technological innovation when Captain Charles "Chuck" Yeager piloted the X-1 developmental rocket plane to a speed of Mach 1.07, becoming the first flyer to break the sound barrier in a powered aircraft in level flight;

Whereas the USAF Reserve, created April 14, 1948, is comprised of Citizen Airmen who steadfastly sacrifice personal fortune and family comfort in order to serve as unrivaled wingmen of the active duty USAF in every deployment, mission, and battlefield around the globe;

Whereas the USAF operated the Berlin Airlift in 1948 and 1949 to provide humanitarian relief to post-war Germany and has established a tradition of humanitarian assistance in responding to natural disasters and needs across the world;

Whereas the USAF announced a policy of racial integration in the ranks of the USAF on April 26, 1948, 3 months prior to a Presidential mandate to integrate all military services;

Whereas in the early years of the Cold War, the USAF's arsenal of bombers, such as the long-range Convair B-58 Hustler and B-36 Peacemaker, and the Boeing B-47 Stratojet and B-52 Stratofortress, under the command of General Curtis LeMay served as the United States' preeminent deterrent against Soviet Union forces and were later augmented by the development and deployment of medium range and intercontinental ballistic missiles, such as the Titan and Minuteman developed by General Bernard A. Schriever;

Whereas the USAF, employing the first large-scale combat use of jet aircraft, helped to establish air superiority over the Korean peninsula, protected ground forces of the United Nations with close air support, and interdicted enemy reinforcements and supplies during the conflict in Korea;

Whereas after the development of launch vehicles and orbital satellites, the mission of the USAF expanded into space and today provides exceptional real-time global communications, environmental monitoring, navigation, precision timing, missile warning, nuclear deterrence, and space surveillance;

Whereas USAF Airmen have contributed to the manned space program of the United States since the program's inception and throughout the program's development at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by dedicating themselves wholly to space exploration despite the risks of exploration;

Whereas the USAF engaged in a limited campaign of air power to assist the South Vietnamese government in countering the communist Viet Cong guerillas during the Vietnam War and fought to disrupt supply lines, halt enemy ground offensives, and protect United States and Allied forces;

Whereas Airmen were imprisoned and tortured during the Vietnam War and, in the valiant tradition of Airmen held captive in previous conflicts, continued serving the United States with honor and dignity under the most inhumane circumstances;

Whereas, in recent decades, the USAF and coalition partners of the United States have supported successful actions in Panama, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and many other locations around the globe;

Whereas Pacific Air Forces, along with Asia-Pacific partners of the United States, ensure peace and advance freedom from the west coast of the United States to the east coast of Africa and from the Arctic to the Antarctic, covering more than 100 million square miles and the homes of 2 billion people in 44 countries;

Whereas the United States Air Forces in Europe, along with European partners of the United States, have shaped the history of Europe from World War II, the Cold War, Operation Deliberate Force, and Operation Allied Force to today's operations, and secured stability and ensured freedom's future in the Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia;

Whereas, for 17 consecutive years beginning with 1990, Airmen have been engaged in full-time combat operations ranging from Desert Shield to Iraqi Freedom, and have shown themselves to be an expeditionary air and space force of outstanding capability ready to fight and win wars of the United

States when and where Airmen are called upon to do so;

Whereas the USAF is steadfast in its commitment to field a world-class, expeditionary air force by recruiting, training, and educating its Total Force of active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and civilian personnel;

Whereas the USAF is a trustworthy steward of resources, developing and applying technology, managing professional acquisition programs, and maintaining exacting test, evaluation, and sustainment criteria for all USAF weapon systems throughout such weapon systems' life cycles;

Whereas, when terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, USAF fighter and air refueling aircraft took to the skies to fly combat air patrols over major United States cities and protect families, friends, and neighbors of people of the United States from further attack;

Whereas, on December 7, 2005, the USAF modified its mission statement to include flying and fighting in cyberspace and prioritized the development, maintenance, and sustainment of war fighting capabilities to deliver unrestricted access to cyberspace and defend the United States and its global interests;

Whereas Airmen around the world are committed to fighting and winning the Global War on Terror and have flown more than 430,000 sorties to precisely target and engage insurgents who attempt to violently disrupt rebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas talented and dedicated Airmen will meet the future challenges of an ever-changing world with strength and resolve;

Whereas the USAF, together with its joint partners, will continue to be the United States' leading edge in the ongoing fight to ensure the safety and security of the United States; and

Whereas during the past 60 years, the USAF has repeatedly proved its value to the Nation, fulfilling its critical role in national defense, and protecting peace, liberty, and freedom throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress recommends, honors, and commends the achievements of the United States Air Force in serving and defending the United States on the 60th anniversary of the creation of the United States Air Force as an independent military service.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2887. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1124, to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999.

SA 2888. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1124, *supra*.

SA 2889. Mr. BIDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2890. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2891. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.